

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes - June 4, 2009

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Those present were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Dave Geiger, MDOT-Saginaw; and Brandon Wilcox, MDOT Planning.

Minutes from February 10, 2009 Tech meeting:

It was moved by Gaydos, seconded by Majerczyk, to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2009 meeting. Motion Passed.

Stimulus Funding Update:

Engelhardt gave an update on the stimulus funding. Currently, BCATS has projects that are ready to go when the funding becomes available for 1.9 million dollars of stimulus funds for the area. It is anticipated that additional funding, possible up to \$400,000, for stimulus projects could become available in July, 2009. Any additional fund could go to the Wilder Road/Truman Road joint repair project. There is a December 1, 2009 deadline for stimulus projects to have the GI package submitted. Wilcox will check into the time table and clarify the actual schedule for stimulus projects and email the information to Engelhardt.

ARRA Discretionary Grants:

Engelhardt said that there would be a teleconference next week on June 17th at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the ARRA local services projects.

MDOT TIP Amendments:

Wilcox sent Engelhardt three MDOT Amendments to the TIP: I-75 PE Phase added, M-13 Bridge increase cost and moved from the 2010 project list to the 2009 project list, and M-247 signal flasher. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Moulthane, seconded by Lillo, to favorably recommend to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve the MDOT TIP Amendments. Motion Passed.

Engelhardt also informed the committee regarding an Administrative Modification of the funding code for I-75/M-84 Interchange PE. There is no cost increase for the project.

BCATS 2011-14 TIP Adjusted Time Line for Adoption:

The adjusted time line for BCATS 2011-14 TIP adoption has been pushed to 2010 by MDOT. Engelhardt questioned if ARRA project money should be listed in the TIP as 2009 or 2010 year funding. It was determined that administrative modification for the TIP could be used for the ARRA projects obligated in FY 2010.

Trumbull/Wilder Corridor Update:

Don Mayle was unable to attend the meeting today. However, Engelhardt would like to set up a BCATS meeting with him to discuss these results from the TDM for the corridor.

Chamber of Commerce Letter Discussion:

Engelhardt wanted to discuss the Chamber of Commerce letter and said that he felt that BCATS should make some sort of formal response in the form of a letter. Engelhardt felt that the response letter needed to provide some direction for the Chamber of Commerce. It's important to let them know that BCATS can only support the issues and projects that are in the BCATS

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area. BCATS does not select State or local projects or projects that are located outside the BCATS cities and townships. BCATS role is to ensure that funding goes to projects that all BCATS members believe are the highest priority projects and provide maximum benefit to the existing Federal Aid System. Engelhardt would like to craft a letter for BCATS review and approval that would give some direction to the Chamber of Commerce to help them with their projects, while still explaining the confines of BCATS. It's important that we point them in the right direction, even if the only support we can offer is guidance. The BCATS members agreed that a response letter is warranted, however they wanted it to be made clear in the letter to the Chamber of Commerce that no BCATS funding can be used for these projects. Dave was directed by the BCATS members to write a response letter to the Chamber of Commerce.

Asset Management Local Roads Funding:

Engelhardt sent an email to Lillo and explained that the Bay County Road Commission is not eligible for three-years to get local roads funding. The City of Bay City will have some of their roads rated, with the help of Westbury. Engelhardt asked if there was anything that could be submitted to MDOT under the Asset Management program to reimburse funds for staff time. Engelhardt also asked if there was a list of acceptable items that can billed against the Asset Management program funds.

BCATS FY 2010 Unified Work Program (UWP):

Engelhardt stated that he had nothing new to report for the BCATS FY 2010 UWP. It is anticipated that the text portion of the UWP will be completed before the BCATS Policy Committee Meeting for review. However, due to time constraints it's important to move the process along and have the UWP approved. Currently, Engelhardt is waiting for the indirect cost numbers from the Finance Department in order to complete his portion of the UWP. The Previous Transportation/GIS intern left, and Engelhardt does not plan to hire another person, at least not until the position has been fully re-evaluated, as funds are very tight. Basically, the UWP will remain the same with the addition of language dealing with freight and commercial traffic counts. Lillo asked if a Transportation intern could do traffic counts since there is a need to get caught up with them. Engelhardt wasn't sure if that would be acceptable, however he's not pursuing hiring an intern with as much time dedicated to transportation. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Majerczyk, seconded by Gaydos, to favorably recommend to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve the BCATS FY 2010 Unified Work Program (UWP) as written, with the addition of the aforementioned figures when received from the Finance Department and with the additional verbiage regarding freight and commercial traffic counts. Motion Passed.

BCATS Public Involvement Plan:

Engelhardt discussed the BCATS Public Involvement Plan, specifically the section relating to public notice of meeting. With the decrease in days local newspapers publish printed circulated material, it's important to re-visit and revise the BCATS Public Involvement Plan. Engelhardt would like to see the amount of time to have public notices posted in a local paper of significant circulation decreased to three (3) days, or simply prior notice, prior to the meeting. He would also like to take out any specific references to newspapers (like the naming of the Bay City Times) out of the BCATS Public Involvement Plan to allow for flexibility in the future and in order for BCATS to accommodate changes in the news media industry. Engelhardt plans to keep posting the public notices in the Bay City Times since it is a local paper of significant circulation when compared to other options. Discussion ensued.

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Non-Motorized Update:

Westbury and Lillo gave an update on the Non-Motorized information. The Great Lakes Bay Regional Trails Committee is an extension of the current rail trail group and is in the process of setting up goals and determining what each of the other sub-groups will be doing. This includes Bay County, Saginaw County and Midland County, with the goal of connecting the three county's trail systems. There has been some movement forward with trying to acquire the right-of-way between Zilwaukee and Bay City as the first link between the cities. Moulton was hopeful that the non-motorized groups wouldn't focus on a small area in Bay City when the larger portions is in the county. The main concern with the Bay-Zil trail are the two bridges on the ROW. Westbury questioned if the trust fund would cover the cost of paths over bridges. Lillo wasn't sure, but would look into the matter. In order to have a trail along the waterfront the city needs to acquire some additional easements which are owned by some businesses. These businesses have yet to sign off on the easements.

Project Updates:

The **Beaver Road Project** which is two miles between M-13 and Mackinaw is in for GI. Lillo reported that they have had several **Collapsed Culverts** and will be looking into fix four culverts that have collapsed located on Old State Road off Almeda Beach, on Delta Road between the school entrance on Delta Road and Mackinaw, on Wilder Road just west of Nine Mile. The **Mackinaw Road Signal Project** at State Park and Wilder Road is finished. The **Borton Road Project** will have a GI meeting before December 1st and it expected to go in the spring of 2010. The **Harrison Street Project** is moving along with water and sewer on schedule. The archeological at the Harrison Street site produced two beer bottles from 1888. Road construction will begin June 22nd and the project should be completed by July 2009. The Marquette Connector Project (formally called the S Curve Project) will change the radius and elevate the road to accommodate truck traffic. This project is expected to be let July 10th. The **Livingston Street Project** which needed emergency repair affected some of the businesses along Livingston Street and Center Avenue. The current city budget has funds set aside to design projects for Johnson Street, Trumbull, and Lincoln St that will be on the shelf by April 2010. The **Truman Parkway Bridge** will be closed after Memorial Day and reopen before July 4th for critical bridge repairs. The **rural task force project of Mackinaw Road** will be between Freeland and Amelith Road. This project will have to be included in the TIP as it is in the BCATS area.

A motion was made by Majerczyk, seconded by Gaydos, to favorably recommend to the BCATS Policy Committee a TIP Amendment to include the Mackinaw Road project between Freeland and Amelith Roads. Motion Passed.

Other/New Business:

City of Bay City Stimulus Funds:

Bay City will be receiving stimulus funds to be used to fix local streets. This is the first time in over five years that any funding to fix local streets has been allocated. Gaydos will get a list of the streets scheduled for repair under these funds to the BCATS group.

As there was no other business, the June 4, 2009 meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.
(The fire alarm went off in the county building and we had to immediately evacuate)

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt

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BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul

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